

Dear Friends,

There are people who believe that following God's way is just a comfortable option for wimps.

However in reading the Bible we hear

story after story of the reality - that those who speak out God's will are more than likely to be rejected and abused, insulted and scorned. Perhaps Bibles should have a safety warning pasted on the front cover - "Following the God you meet through these pages can be very dangerous".



For example, we read of King David dancing with all his might before the Lord in an uninhibited outpouring of love and worship to God as the holy ark is brought to Jerusalem. The glamorous Michal's scorn as she watches him will sound familiar to many of our young Christians at school and university who often have to suffer the pitying scorn of the glamorous because of their faith. They badly need our constant prayer support and encouragement.

We read, also, of Amos, told to push off and go back to his farming because he spoke out a message from God which his listeners didn't want to hear. Never mind how right and wise God's advice is, those brave enough to speak of it, when a community or a relationship needs changing, are bound to be treated as attackers, at least initially. As a species we do not take criticism positively, but beat it off at all costs, even though it can help us grow. It is a mark of great maturity to be able to welcome criticism in order to learn from it.

In the Gospels we read of John the Baptist speaking out that dangerous truth to Herod, pointing out what God's will is and is not.

Herod is pulled in two directions - both towards a liberating eternal relationship with the living God, and towards the personal power, wealth, gratification and popularity which spell short-term satisfaction and death. It is the latter he chooses, urged on by Herodias' aggressive resentment at John's meddling in their lives. Yet, although John has been beheaded as a true prophet for faithfully speaking out God's word, Jesus still sends his disciples throughout the countryside in pairs, preaching repentance and the kingdom for all they are worth!

We need to pray for the courage to speak out as God's people, and get on with the work we have been chosen to do, however we are received. All too often the first hint of opposition or waning popularity shuts us up, and we persuade ourselves that we shouldn't mention such things again. But, please remember, if the early Church had followed a similar line, how many of us would ever have heard the good news of God's love?

From your friend and minister,

Brian

MISSIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

In recent years, there has been a reduction in ministerial numbers which has been consistent with the decline in church membership but not consistent with the number of local churches, which has remained fairly consistent. This means that there are fewer ministers available to serve the local church.

In order to address this problem of ministerial deployment the NW Synod is looking in the future to linking churches in Missional Partnerships for 'the purpose of mutual cooperation and support

between churches, the development of the ministry of every person in every local church and the targeting and sharing of various forms of leadership including lay preachers/worship leaders, stipendiary ministers, non-stipendiary ministers and, as appropriate, retired ministers'. The idea is to link churches into pastorates not based on geographical areas, but on mission objectives.

To help us understand more about what this means the Elders of the Pastorate are having a joint meeting at Sale URC on **Wednesday, 12th July at 7.30pm**, with Rev Dave Fraser (Synod Mission Enabler). Also, the Synod and Area Pastoral Committees will be arranging a number of local 'Roadshows'. Details of these meetings will be announced when we have definite dates available. Please try and attend one of these 'Roadshows', if possible.

Brian Acty

MESSY CHURCH

The folks at Ashton-upon-Mersey Church are looking at the possibility of starting up a Messy Church programme - so what is it? Messy Church is an activity when families come together to



enjoy being together, making things together, eating together and celebrating God together through his word, through music and through prayer. It's different from Sunday School or Junior Church because it's an activity for children

and their parents or carers together, and it's more than a children's club because of the element of worship that underpins it all.

Messy Church is trying to be a worshipping community of all ages, centred on Christ, showing Christian hospitality - giving people chance to express creativity, to sit down together to share a meal and have fun within a church context - and it doesn't have to happen on a Sunday!

The principles are -

- ❖ to provide an opportunity for people of all ages to worship together;
- ❖ to help people of all ages to feel that they belong in church and to each other;
- ❖ to help people have fun together;
- ❖ to give people a chance to express their God-given creativity;
- ❖ to invite people into an experience of Christian community;
- ❖ to introduce people to Jesus through hospitality, friendship, stories and worship.

If you are interested in exploring the possibilities that Messy Church offers then come along to the meeting on **Tuesday, 18th July, 7.30pm at Ashton- upon-Mersey URC.**

Brian Acty



Prayer Walk



**Sunday,
20th August**

from 3.00pm

You will start out from The Manse, 58 Broad Road, Sale and you will be given a route to follow. At various points along that route you will be asked to pause and reflect upon some aspect of God's creation. It will be a circular route which will lead you back to The Manse for a barbecue.

A poster will be displayed in the churches in the near future asking for names of those wishing to take part. This will also help in knowing numbers for the barbecue



for

Brian

SALE COMMUNION FUND

In June, £55 was donated to ORBIS UK. The July Collection will be for **TOGETHER DEMENTIA SUPPORT**. This is a local Charity which helps patients and carers to cope with dementia. In August, the Charity will be **MADE WITH HOPE** which provides for a better future for children in Africa. This Charity is already supported by our Church.

Nancy Stringer - Sale

JULY and AUGUST FLOWER ROTA

	Ashton-on-Mersey	Sale
July 2	Joyce Doggart	Lily Lloyd
July 9	Vera Tinsley	Val Roberts
July 16	Margaret Johnson	Stella Salmon
July 23	Diana McClaire	Tuesday Club
July 30	Dave and Gill Hunt	tbc
August 6	Joint at Sale	tbc
August 13	Diana and Stephen Lister	Joint at Ashton
August 20	Joint at Sale	Joan Clark
August 27	tbc	Joint at Ashton

WEDNESDAY SOCIETY: AUTUMN 2017

Over the last year, we have noticed sadly that the number of members attending Meetings has declined. We have a varied Programme during the year of social activities, outings and speakers and wish to encourage those that are able, to join us. You do not have to commit to every Meeting, although this would be wonderful, but an occasional attendance would be much appreciated.

We meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month in the Church Lounge at Sale at 2pm. Our Programme for the coming weeks includes:

September 6 Revd Brian Acty

September 13 'Land of their Fathers' - Barry Myers

October 4 Lunch in the Lounge - 1.30pm

Do think about joining us - you will be made most welcome.

Yvonne Jones - Sale

PLEASANT TUESDAY AFTERNOON

July 4 Flower Arranging - Joyce Doggart

July 11 Revd Valerie Davies

July 18 Revd Brian Acty

July 25 Afternoon Tea

Please join us at 2pm every Tuesday afternoon. There will be no Meetings in August.

Kath Paxton - Ashton

Please give Keith something to run for!

On **October 19th** thanks to the generosity of our son and his partner we will be flying to Kericho in Kenya to take part in an **Impact Marathon** - or in Keith's case a half marathon and in mine a 10K walk! At the time of writing Keith has only run 10K but is training hard and hopes to reach 21K (a half marathon) well before the event. The altitude is around 2000 metres so it won't be easy.

An impact marathon isn't a race to win so much as an experience. We will be travelling through an area where **Five Talents**, the charity we are raising money for, works to support the poorest people - mostly women - by creating savings groups from which the members can take loans to start micro-businesses.

Meet a client: Lucy Mjuki Mwikaria

Lucy and her family live in a village in Embu County, in central Kenya - an area where Five Talents has been working for the past six years. Without any reliable income, her children were not always able to attend school and Lucy was worried that like her, they may never complete secondary school.

As soon as she joined the group Lucy began saving the little she could and after 6 months had saved £17 - enough to borrow a loan. Lucy used the loan to build a small wooden shop which she has now grown into a Macadamia nut business using subsequent loans.

"The savings are a security for me. I felt great when I paid back my first loan and it motivated me to take out my second loan."

Today, Lucy's nut business is flourishing. At the moment she buys nuts from the farmers and sells them on to the Kenya Nut Company but she has aspirations to work for the company collecting nuts from the 'middle men' like herself.

'As well as being able to pay school fees I now have a cow that provides milk for my family and I even have some extra to sell so I don't need to buy milk anymore. From the training given by Five Talents I can now budget my money and do a cost analysis for my small business to see where I am making profit.'

Every pound we raise will stay in Kenya to empower and train people like Lucy to support and educate their families, obtain healthcare and find dignity in earning an income. At the beginning of September we will be collecting sponsorship and hope that many of you will feel able to support this very worthwhile charity and give Keith something to keep him running. You can donate in a couple of ways: either by giving us cash or a cheque made out to Five Talents (in which case we can supply you with a Gift Aid form) or you can go to our fundraising webpage and donate directly.

www.impactmarathon.com/fundraising/keith-argyle

Thank you, Margaret Argyle - Sale

A FAVOURITE RECIPE - IMPOSSIBLE PIE

Does your life seem like an impossible pie?

Are you still mixed up and losing all hope of things ever coming out right?

If this is the case, then listen to the words from God's recipe book -

"We know that all things work together for good for those who love God", Romans chapter 8, verse 28.

It is the heat of the oven that brings order out of chaos from the Impossible Pie recipe. Just as when your heart burns with love for Christ that God will work all the confusion of your life, into a beautiful pattern.

Ingredients

4 eggs; a quarter cup of margarine; 1 cup of white sugar;

a half cup of flour; a half teaspoonful baking powder;

2 cups of milk; 1 cup of desiccated coconut ;

1 teaspoonful vanilla essence and a quarter teaspoonful of salt.

Method

Place all ingredients into a blender and mix thoroughly or just use a whisk.

Pour into a buttered 10" pie dish and bake in a 180 C oven (Gas Mark 4) for 1 hour.

Impossible as it might seem, it will come out right - pastry at the bottom, custard in the middle and coconut on top.

Jean Lucas - Sale

'PEOPLE OF MANY LANDS' - Answers from Page 13

1. British
2. Portuguese
3. Spanish
4. American
5. Italian
6. German
7. Austrian
8. Norwegian
9. Indian
10. Swedish
11. Rumanian
12. Irish
13. Bulgarian
14. Russian
15. Chinese
16. Japanese
17. African
18. Burmese
19. Australian
20. Canadian
21. Maltese
22. Armenian
23. Egyptian
24. Hungarian.

How did you get on? Any 24s?

AN AFTERTHOUGHT

"Had a great experience yesterday. I picked up my 10-year old grandson Noah from school and took him and his buddy Callum for coffee and cake [something of an institution in our family]. At some point I told Noah he should "think positive" - this was simply in passing and I can't even recall what we were discussing at the time. Anyway, in the car home, they were chatting away in the back.

"What did your Grandpa mean by 'think positive'?" said Callum.

"Oh you know" replied Noah, "that's how you get to feel good even when you feel bad".

So true! Out of the mouths of babes."

Karen Garrattley -Ashton

..... **AND WHAT ABOUT THESE? Some grammatical errors relating to Church and there are more to come!**

1. Correction: The following typo in our last bulletin: "Lunch will be gin at 12.15." Please correct to read "12-noon".
2. Any Church member over 18 is welcome to our new lay ministry programme. It requires minimal training and time - just six weekly classes of about 200 hours each Tuesday night.
3. The Seniors group will have a picnic on Saturday. Each person is asked to bring a friend, a vegetable and a sweet, all in a covered dish.
4. Remember the Church jumble sale. We have a Gents 3-speed bicycle, also two ladies for sale, in good running order.
5. A talk on drugs will be given at the next Mother's Union meeting. This will be followed by a Bring and Buy sale.
6. Don't miss the 'Young Wives' Victorian evening next month. It will be a fun night and some of the women will wear clothes.
7. Next Sunday's preacher can be found hanging on the notice board in the porch.
8. A church notice board:
 - Hymn 43 'Great God, what do I see and hear?'
 - Preacher - Rev Dr Bernard Taylor
 - Hymn 45 'Hark an awful voice is sounding'.

Alison Skinner and Alasdair Renfrew - Sale

A QUIZ - 'PEOPLE FROM MANY LANDS'

Just rearrange the letters to identify the inhabitants of various countries.

1. HIT RIBS	2. UGO UP TREES
3. HIS PANS	4. IN A CREAM
5. IN A TAIL	6. MANGER
7. U, IN A STAR	8. GO - IN WE RAN
9. IN A DIN	10. HIS DEWS
11. RUIN A MAN	12. HI, SIR
13. L, RUB AGAIN	14. AS IS, RUN
15. HE'S NICE	16. SEE PA, JAN
17. CAN FAIR	18. SEE 'M RUB
19. A RUST - A NAIL	20. DIANA CAN
21. STEAL ME	22. MEAN RAIN
23. GET PAY IN	24. GAIN A RUN, H

FROM THE EDITOR

I wish to thank all those who have contributed to this issue promptly and have made my return much easier. However, my involvement is only temporary and so we shall be looking for someone to take over in mid - January, at the latest. This means we look forward to a new Editor for the February 2018 issue. This could be one person or it could be shared between various people with each being responsible for particular aspects such as collating, word processing, printing and proof reading. (The photocopying Team based in Sale URC will be unchanged).

If you are interested in being part of SASH and having a role in the way it could develop over the next few years, do not hesitate to let us know. I can assure you that it can be a very rewarding and worthwhile activity; so do consider this very carefully. Hilary Grierson or I could deal with any questions you have at this stage and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

The deadlines for the next two issues are:

Sunday, August 13th for the September issue and

Sunday, September 10th for the October issue.

It would be appreciated if any items are sent/given to me by those dates.

Yvonne Jones - Sale

SASH DIARY

FORTHCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND SERVICES

JULY

2 nd	6.30pm	Healing Service (AoM)
8 th		Big Day Out (Southport)
12 th	7.30pm	Joint Elders on 'Missional Partnerships' (Sale)
18 th	2.00pm	South Area Roadshow (Altrincham URC)
	7.00pm	South Area Roadshow (Gatley URC)
	7.30pm	'Messy Church' Meeting (AoM)
22 nd	4.00pm	Concert and Barbecue (AoM)
26 th	2.00pm	Church and Society (Sale)
30 th	10.45am	Joint Service (Sale)
30 th	7.00pm	CTiS Service (St Paul's)

AUGUST

6 th	10.45am	Joint Service (Sale)
13 th	10.45am	Joint Service including Baptism (AoM)
16 th	10.00am	'Holiday at Home' (Sale)
17 th	10.00am	'Holiday at Home' (Sale)
20 th	10.45am	Joint Service (Sale)
20 th	3.00pm	Prayer Walk from the Manse
27 th	10.45am	Joint Service (AoM)

SEPTEMBER

6 th	2.00pm	Wednesday Society (Sale)
16 th	11.00am	Autumn Brunch (AoM)
17 th	10.45am	Harvest Parade Service (Sale)
24 th	10.45am	Harvest Service (AoM)
27 th	2.00pm	Church & Society (Sale)

AUGUST 2017 PULPIT SUPPLY AND READINGS

Date	ASHTON	SALE
6th August	<i>JOINT at SALE</i>	Rev Brian Acty *
13th August	Rev Brian Acty *	<i>JOINT at ASHTON</i>
20th August	<i>JOINT at SALE</i>	Rev Brian Acty
27th August	Rev Brian Acty	<i>JOINT at ASHTON</i>

* Service includes communion

6th August	Genesis 32: 22-31 Psalm 17: 1-7,15	Romans 9: 1-5 Matthew 14: 13-21
13th August	Genesis 37: 1-4, 12 – 28 Psalm 105: 1 – 6, 16- 22, 45b	Romans 10: 5-15 Matthew 14: 22-23
20th August	Genesis 45: 1 – 15 Psalm 133	Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28
27th August	Exodus 1: 8 - 2: 10 Psalm 124	Romans 12: 1 - 8 Matthew 16: 13 - 20

